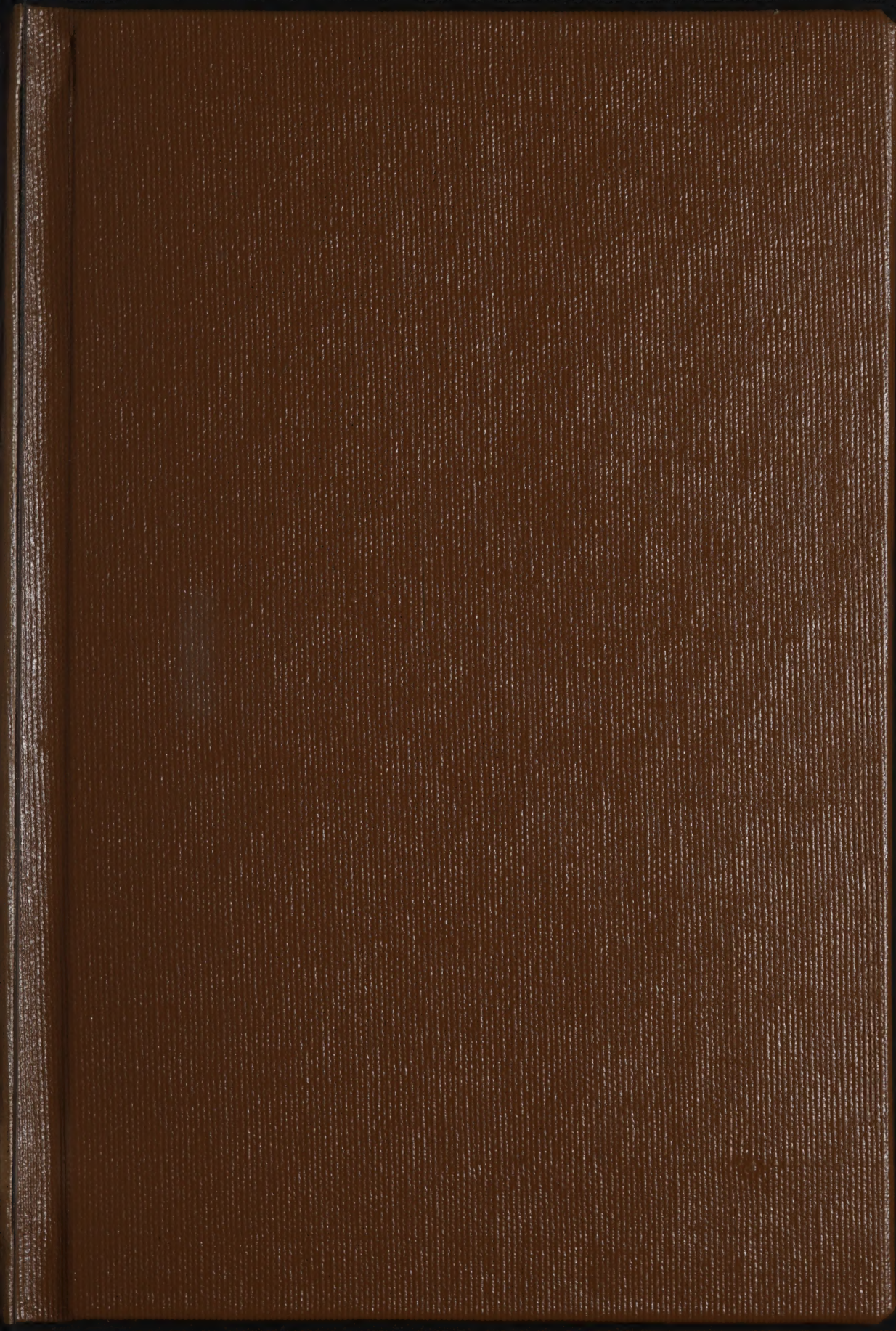




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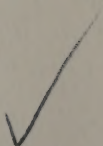


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Topsham (Vt.)

Annual report of the town
officers of the town of
Topsham, Vermont ...



TOPSHAM, VT.

THE ORCHID

TOWN

ANNUAL
REPORT

1937



Allen County Public Library
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Topsham, the Orchid Town

Among the orchids found in the woods of Topsham is the very rare Ram's-head Lady's-slipper shown on the cover.

Governor George D. Aiken writes for us:

"The Ram's-head Lady's-slipper is one of the rarest of North American Wild Flowers, as well as one of the most self-reliant—should soil be lacking in the spot where the plant is fore-destined to grow, it makes the best of what nourishment it can secure from moss or debris.

"To me it appears that a good public official, like the Ram's-head Lady's-slipper, will, if he cannot have all that he wants to do with, make the most of what he does have in serving those who have elected him to office."

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS
OF THE TOWN OF
TOPSHAM
VERMONT



FOR THE YEAR ENDING
JANUARY THIRTY-FIRST

1937

Green Mountain Press



Bradford, Vermont

TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator: Chester Hight.

1st Selectman: W. E. Frost. Term expires 1937.

2nd Selectman: Duncan McKay. Term exp. 1938.

3rd Selectman: Kenneth Batten. Term exp. 1939.

Road Commissioner: Merrill Welch.

Lister: James A. White. Term expires 1937.

Lister: E. B. Andross. Term expires 1938.

Lister: Chester Hight. Term expires 1939.

Auditor: Julian A. Dimock. Term expires 1937.

Auditor: J. W. Hood. Term expires 1938.

Auditor: Lloyd L. Hight. Term expires 1939.

Collector: George H. Hight.

Town Clerk and Treasurer: E. S. Locke.

Overseer: Robert Hodge.

Health Officer: Dr. J. A. Dow.

Superintendent of Schools: Lyman W. Bole.

Grand Juror: R. B. Hood.

Town Agent to Prosecute Suits: E. S. Locke.

Town Counsel: Finn & Monti.

School Director: Lettie O'Meara. Term exp. 1937.

School Director: Mary Andross. Term exp. 1938.

School Director: Waldo E. Hood. Term exp. 1939.

**Terms of all officers for one year unless
otherwise stated.**

Town Grand List \$4,505.63 **1932** Tax Rate \$3.55

Town Grand List \$4,383.10 **1933** Tax Rate \$3.45

Town Grand List \$4,293.56 **1934** Tax Rate \$3.55

Town Grand List \$4,280.70 **1935** Tax Rate \$3.85

Town Grand List \$4,383.87 **1936** Tax Rate \$3.75

AUDITORS' COMMENTS

Again your Auditors wish to call attention to the results of team work by your officers. The second consecutive year of this work has put the town finances in the best shape of which the writer has knowledge. The unselfish get-together meetings of officers and auditors give a splendid chance to talk over the month's problems and study the financial situation of the town.

High Lights of the Year

A. The balance of \$3,432.90 profit for the year makes the net liabilities at the lowest figure for thirteen years.

B. Your Selectmen did not have to borrow a dollar to carry on the town business of the year. Nobody remembers a year with such a showing.

C. Wide publicity was given to our 1936 Report. Commendatory comments appeared in the New York Sunday Times, Boston Post, American City, and various other publications. In the January issue of the latter magazine appeared an article describing the value of the new style reports. The writer placed New York City first, Topsham, Vermont second, and Berkeley, California third. The competition staged by the State Chamber of Commerce is already being copied by other states, and everywhere goes word of the Topsham Report.

Suggestions

The Town paid out for truck hire nearly \$1,500 last year. Many other towns own trucks. Would Topsham save money by so doing?

Would it be good business for the Town to bid for a "Snow Train" or two during the winter?

Skiing is becoming big business, with the B. & M. R. R. reported as receiving \$100,000.00 in fares on its "snow trains" during January and February 1936. But these week-end trains were cancelled through December

and January of this season for seven consecutive weeks for "lack of snow." If the management had known that skiing was possible in Topsham during the whole of this time, would the railroad have let the possible fares slip away from them? Within a few days of the erection of a ski tow on the border of this town, three hundred enthusiasts from nearby made use of it in a single day. If a train load from Boston had joined the throng we might have had a merry time, and many dollars would have been left behind for food and lodging.

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS

Total Receipts

Cash on hand Feb. 1, 1936 (see page 8)	\$ 3,081.86
Receipts from loans (see pages 8 and 9)	4,600.00
From the State (see page 8)	8,286.47
Taxes and Licenses (see page 9)	17,618.62
Tuition (see page 8)	140.00
Miscellaneous (see pages 8 and 9)	361.09

\$34,088.04

Total Payments

Loans paid off (see page 9)	\$ 5,200.00
Bonds redeemed (see page 9)	1,500.00
Interest (see page 9)	1,891.44
Selectmen's orders, other than loans, interest and work on Powder Spring Road (p 9)	4,525.01
K. A. Batten's orders, Powder Spring Road (p9)	1,607.65
School Directors' orders, other than loans repaid (see page 9)	8,123.73
Overseer's Orders (see page 9)	2,545.36
Road Commissioner's orders (see page 9)	3,485.65
Cash on hand (see page 9)	5,209.20

\$34,088.04

NET LIABILITY OF THE TOWN FOR TEN YEARS

For the Year Ending	Loss	Gain
January 31st, 1928—\$39,838.48	\$1,808.96	
January 31st, 1929—\$38,905.81		\$932.67
January 31st, 1930—\$39,936.50	1,030.69	
January 31st, 1931—\$39,106.19		830.31
January 31st, 1932—\$38,683.93		422.26
January 31st, 1933—\$38,788.73	104.80	
January 31st, 1934—\$36,941.47		1,847.26
January 31st, 1935—\$38,797.35	1,855.88	
January 31st, 1936—\$35,377.62		3,419.73
January 31st, 1937—\$31,944.72		3,432.90

**OPERATING COSTS PAID BY THE TOWN FOR
THE LAST THREE YEARS**

	1935	1936	1937
School costs paid by town	\$5,211.53	\$5,350.87	\$4,810.35
Poor Aid paid by town	2,619.90	2,459.48	2,445.36
Town Highway	429.35	419.31	438.39
Powder Spring Road	647.42		
Tarvia on 25A	419.55		
Winter Work	1,915.04	719.74	360.86
Bridge Work	1,254.29	1,281.75	364.76
Tractor depreciation	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Tractor operating costs	528.74	305.59	565.91
Taxes paid by Town	1,258.28	2,025.22	1,206.92
Legal service	306.90	365.50	6.00
Interest	2,018.24	1,763.45	1,891.44
Miscellaneous	1,330.56	1,471.96	1,295.24
	\$18,939.80	\$16,662.87	\$13,885.54

ASSETS OF THE TOWN

February 1st, 1937:

Cash on hand	\$ 5,209.20
Tractor and Plow (depreciated \$2,000.00)	1,260.00
George Moulton note	170.00
Real Estate bought for taxes	276.61

Uncollected Taxes:

1929	\$ 80.80
1930	53.95
1931	277.50
1932	179.29
1933	245.20
1934 (Real Estate)	296.09
1934 (Flood, Poll, Etc.)	161.38
1935 (Real Estate)	1,197.93
1935 (Flood, Poll, Etc.)	303.44
1936 (Real Estate)	3,267.99
1936 (Flood, Poll & Old Age)	561.90
	6,625.47

\$13,541.28

Net Liability of the Town

\$31,944.72

\$45,486.00

LIST OF TOWN PROPERTY

School Houses, listed at		\$5,575.00
Town Hall		500.00
Real Estate owned by Town		1,110.00
3 Safes	Derrick	3 Hammers
1 Chain	2 Tractors	1 Dirt Scraper
8 Drills	Gas Engine	1 Stone Lifter
18 Shovels	Road Grader	3 Snow Rollers
6 Pick Axes	Cement Mixer	1 Bar Drill Steel
6 Bog Hoes	2 Snow Plows	2 Wheelbarrows
3 Crow Bars	2 Stone Boats	3,500 Feet Snow Fence

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN

JANUARY 31st, 1937

BONDS	\$22,000.00
Interest Bearing Orders:	
Bessie Cunningham	500.00
Betsey A. Currier	600.00
James A. White, Trustee, Un. Pres. Church	600.00
John H. and Flora Felch	2,375.00
George Felch	1,631.00
R. B. Hood	4,000.00
Gladys L. Hood	1,700.00
Nellie L. Miles	2,500.00
Estate of W. H. Morrison	3,575.00
McKay Brothers	50.00
Josephine Smith	3,000.00
Lizzie B. White	1,400.00
Leslie Frost	200.00
Renwick Frost	250.00
W. E. Frost	705.00
John Felch	400.00

\$45,486.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts

Feb.	1.	Cash on hand, Gen. Fund	\$2,323.75	
		School Account	758.11	\$3,081.86
Mar.	7.	Discount from Green Mt. Press		1.83
May	1.	National Life Insurance Co.		
		(borrowed for School Account)		4,000.00
	20.	Minnie Miles, lot in Waits River Cem.		10.00
June	16.	Rebate from Moses Mills Estate		20.73
	20.	Received on George Moulton note		20.00
July	1.	Refund from B. & M. R.R. tar damage		2.28
	7.	Rent from Butson farm		25.00
	10.	Town of Corinth, tuition		140.00
Sept.	28.	Henry Chase, lot in Waits River Cem.		10.00
Oct.	14.	Use of Tractor		115.00
Nov.	2.	Rebate National Life Ins. Co.		32.00
Dec.	17.	Received on George Moulton note		10.00
		1937.		
Jan.	19.	Town of Orange snow plow		75.00
		'36 and '37 Rent West Topsham hall		21.25
		Rent Waits River hall		18.00
		L. J. O'Meara, dance hall license		5.00
		Received from State Rebates:		
		Moses Mills burial	\$100.00	
		School Fund	2,590.28	
		Income tax and St. Aid	1,602.25	
		Town Highways	3,091.47	
		Selected Roads	111.00	
		Resurfacing	444.03	
		Winter Roads	347.44	8,286.47
		Received from dog taxes		222.60
		Taxes (through Constable):		
		1930	\$6.55	
		1931	5.25	
		1932	98.57	
		1933	69.37	
		1934	1,084.66	

1935	3,081.79	
1936	1,517.04	
Through Treasurer	10,263.19	
(Poll and Old Age)	1,264.60	17,391.02
J. A. White, Trustee U. P. Church	600.00	

\$34,088.04

Payments

Loans Repaid:		
Bonds redeemed		\$ 1,500.00
Interest bearing orders		1,200.00
Interest (Selectmen's orders)		1,891.44
Selectmen's orders		4,525.01
K. A. Batten's orders (Powder Spring Road)		1,607.65
School Directors' orders, loan repaid	\$4,000.00	
Expenses	8,123.73	12,123.73
Overseer's orders		2,545.36
Road Com. orders (Town Highway)	\$ 478.11	
(Back Roads)	2,343.38	
(Resurfacing)	664.16	3,485.65
Cash on hand, General Fund	\$4,862.94	
School Account	246.26	5,209.20

\$34,088.04

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE, FEB. 5, 1937

To the Citizens of the Town of Topsham, Vt.:

We, your auditors, have examined and passed upon the accounts of the several Town Officers each month, and have this day gone over the accounts of your Treasurer, as here presented, and believe them to be accurate.

JULIAN A. DIMOCK,

J. W. HOOD,

LLOYD L. HIGHT,

Auditors

SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS

1935-1936.

Mary L. Andross, School Director	\$20.00	
Lettie T. O'Meara, School Director	10.00	
Waldo E. Hood, School Director	10.00	
	—————	\$40.00

1936-1937.

E. S. Locke, Treasurer and Clerk	\$75.00	
Robert B. Hodge, Overseer	35.00	
W. E. Frost, Selectman	10.00	
D. G. McKay, Selectman	10.00	
K. A. Batten, Selectman	10.00	
Julian A. Dimock, Auditor	20.00	
J. W. Hood, Auditor	20.00	
Lloyd L. Hight, Auditor	20.00	
Mary L. Andross, School Director	20.00	
Lettie T. O'Meara, School Director	10.00	
Waldo E. Hood, School Director	10.00	
	—————	\$240.00
		\$280.00

DOG ACCOUNT

Dogs Licensed in 1936

111 Dogs @ \$2.00	\$222.00	
4 Dogs @ \$3.00	12.00	
1 Dog @ \$6.00	6.00	
	—————	\$240.00
Less Clerk's fees		17.40
		\$222.60

SUMMARY SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

For What Orders Were Drawn

W. E. Frost, 1st Selectman, Town expenses	\$1,452.55
D. G. McKay, 2nd Selectman, Town expenses	162.75
K. A. Batten, 3rd Selectman Town exp.	\$4,801.15
Work on Powder Spring Road	1,607.65
	\$6,408.80
	\$8,024.10
Rebate from State for Road Work	\$1,602.25
Total Expenses	\$6,421.25

How the Money Was Spent

Winter Work	\$ 708.30
Interest	1,891.44
Bridge Work	364.76
Tractor expenses, oil, gas, repairs, license	565.91
Services of Town Officers	200.00
Printing, stationery, books	214.51
Listing and collecting taxes	327.70
Elections	87.57
Legal service	6.00
Bonding Officers	68.00
Insurance	77.59
Care of cemeteries	39.25
Back Road Work	150.83
Repairs on Town Hall	78.35
Land bought for taxes	227.05
Rebate on taxes	23.73
Sheep Damage	45.00
Snow Fence	57.00
Old Age Assistance	9.94
Balance Powder Spring Road paid by Town	5.40
Miscellaneous	90.33
Taxes paid by Town:	
Road Tax	\$449.64
Old Age Assistance	533.40
County Tax	85.61
Farm Bureau Tax	114.54
	1,183.19
	\$6,421.85

ROAD WORK

Where the Money Came From

Town Taxes (10c on the Grand List)	\$ 438.39
Rebates from State	3,993.94
	\$4,432.33

How the Money Was Spent

Town Highway, by Road Commissioner	\$ 478.11
Resurfacing, by Road Commissioner	664.16
Back Roads, by Road Commissioner	2,343.38
Back Roads, by Selectmen	150.83
Back Roads Bridges, by Selectmen	364.76
Winter Work, by Selectmen	708.30
	\$4,709.54

Paid from General Fund **\$277.21.**

POWDER SPRING ROAD WORK

Where the Money Came From

Rebate from the State	\$1,602.25
-----------------------	-------------------

How the Money Was Spent

Foreman	\$ 248.00
Labor	649.36
Truck hire	273.50
Tractor hire	115.60
Gravel	60.00
Culverts, etc.	261.79
	\$1,607.65

Paid from General Fund **\$5.40.**

SUMMARY OVERSEER'S REPORT

Where the Money Came From

General Fund (Town Taxes)	\$2,445.36
Refund Old Age Assistance	100.00
	\$2,545.36

How the Money Was Spent

Board and Food	\$1,747.66
Medical care	445.63
Burials	189.50
Supplies	21.53
Clothing	32.19
Care of tramps	30.85
Auto hire	78.00
	\$2,545.36

SUMMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Where the Money Came From

Balance from last year	\$ 758.11
Town Taxes	4,810.35
Rebate from State	2,590.28
Town of Corinth, tuition	140.00
Hall rent	39.25
	\$8,337.99

How the Money Was Spent

Teachers' salaries	\$3,325.34
Advanced Instruction	1,720.83
Elementary Instruction	927.25
Superintendent, Directors, and clerical	522.66
Transportation	110.71
Janitor	146.48
Fuel	278.89
Repairs	588.58
Books and Supplies	429.63
Insurance	51.08
Lights	41.00
Interest	36.00
Census	11.28
Truancy	2.00
	\$8,091.73

Unexpended Balance \$246.26.

COMMENTS

The change in the school fiscal year from February to July has proved difficult to adjust. A recent interpretation by the Attorney General has ruled that the schools shall receive the full amount of the voted tax whether or not it is collected. This decision gives the schools a credit of approximately \$2,000.00 to continue their work until July 1st.

For the past four years the schools have spent of town money, as distinct from rebates from the State, an average of about \$450 per month. At this rate they would now have enough to carry them to the beginning of the next school fiscal year. But, owing to the fact that no rebates come in from the State during February, March, April, May and June, and that certain heavy expenses are paid during that time, the credit of \$2,000 is probably \$2,000 short of the amount actually required.

The fact remains, however, that for four years the town has contributed of tax money about \$5,500 per year for the support of schools, and if \$4,000 is used during the next five months, then the town's share for the following seven months will be only about \$1,500 unless expenses increase or State rebates decrease. The schools have been requiring a tax of about \$1.25 on the Grand List for twelve months' expenses, and any additional levy to adjust our accounts to the new fiscal year will be offset in the next tax.

We hope that the present Legislature will clear up the confusion now existing in school laws, and if the school system is to be divorced from the town district that the decree will be made final instead of decree **nisi** as at present.

**SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT AND BUDGET
AS REQUIRED BY LAW.**

Expenditures 1935-1936 School Year

Teachers' wages	\$3,150.00
Books	109.49
Instructional supplies	108.98
Superintendent's salary	460.25
Superintendent's office expense	8.08
Janitors' and cleaners' pay	143.24
Janitors' supplies and tools	52.50
Fuel	118.63
Light, power and water	56.90
Repairs	610.28
Transportation and board	132.00
Elementary tuition	1,082.75
Advanced tuition	2,410.41
Insurance	54.90
School Directors' salaries	40.00
Miscellaneous	18.36

Total	\$8,556.77
--------------	-------------------

Less receipts from State and
Miscellaneous Sources:

From State	\$2,814.46
From tuition	204.00
From hall rents	34.75
From lease land	67.54
	————— \$3,120.75

Net Cost to Town	\$5,436.02
-------------------------	-------------------

Total cost 1935-1936 school year	\$8,556.77
Less Advanced Tuition	2,410.41
	\$6,146.36
Less tuitions paid for previous year	437.50
Amount for Elementary Education	\$5,708.86

Cost By Schools

West Topsham (2 rooms)	\$1,744.90	
Waits River (\$297.30 to standardize)	1,260.64	
Four Corners	920.34	
East Topsham	1,137.64	
Total		\$5,063.61

Tuition (Elementary)

Tuition to Groton	\$245.00	
Tuition to Corinth	245.00	
Tuition to Orange	50.25	
Tuition to Newbury	105.00	
Total		645.25
		\$5,708.86

Cost By Pupil

High School: 30 pupils at a cost of \$2,250—\$75.00 per pupil.

Elementary Schools: 125 pupils at a cost of \$5,063.61—\$40.50 per pupil.

Elementary Tuition: 21 pupils in Corinth, Groton, Orange and Newbury, at the cost of \$645.25—\$30.72+ per pupil.

**Receipts and Expenditures From February 1, 1936
to July 1, 1936**

Receipts

Balance to credit of schools Feb. 1, 1936	\$ 758.11
Credit by tax voted (50c on 1936 Grand List)	2,191.94
Credit by back tax received	69.47
Credit by hall rent	3.75
Total receipts for current expenses	
Feb. 1 to July 1, 1936	\$3,023.27

Expenditures

Total orders drawn for expenditures from Feb. 1 to July 1, 1936	\$3,693.21
Less total receipts from Feb. 1 to July 1, 1936	3,023.27
Deficit in School Account on July 1, 1936	\$ 669.94

Receipts and Expenditures From July 1, 1936 to Date

Receipts

Tuition	\$ 140.00
Hall Rents	35.50
State Aid	2,590.28
	\$2,765.78
Back taxes	399.96
Lease Land tax	67.54
75c on 1936 Grand List (as voted)	3,287.90
Total Receipts to Date	\$6,521.18
Amount of orders drawn for current expense	4,430.52
Balance on hand Feb. 1, 1937	\$2,090.66

ITEMS	Budget For Current School Year, July 1, '36-July 1, '37	Money Spent From July 1, 1936 to Feb. 1, 1937	Am't Needed From Feb. 1 to July 1, 1937	Am't Needed From July 1, 1937, to July 1, 1938
Teachers' Wages	\$3,220.00	\$1,958.54	\$1,897.71	\$3,855.00
Superintendent's Salary	401.10	237.92	228.61	457.00
School Directors' Salaries	40.00	40.00		40.00
Text Books	113.00	64.12	50.00	140.00
Library Books	25.00	1.00		25.00
Instructional Supplies	70.00	101.94	10.00	100.00
Lights	56.00	40.00	56.90	56.90
Fuel	191.50	233.28		235.00
Janitors' and Cleaners' pay	135.00	78.20	64.00	168.00
Janitors' and Cleaners' supplies	40.00	25.51		10.00
Transportation	400.00	10.71	260.00	260.00
Elementary Tuition	567.00		500.00	500.00
High School Tuition	2,100.00	759.96	1,354.17	2,550.00
Insurance	54.00	15.38	39.52	54.00
Repairs and Improvements	500.00	628.25		400.00
Miscellaneous	20.00	11.46	20.00	
TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSE	\$7,933.50	\$4,362.52		
Interest		68.00		
Paid on borrowed money		4,000.00		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$4,430.52		
			\$4,480.91	
LESS BALANCE ON HAND FEBRUARY 1, 1937			\$2,090.66	
			\$2,390.25	
LESS ESTIMATED RECEIPTS			275.00	
PROBABLE DEFICIT JULY 1, 1937			\$2,115.25	
TOTAL				\$8,850.90
LESS ESTIMATED RECEIPTS				\$2,641.40
TOTAL AMOUNT FROM LOCAL TAX				\$6,209.50

The Directors recommend a deficiency appropriation of 50c on the dollar of the Grand List to avoid the probable deficit July 1, 1937, and a tax of \$1.40 on the dollar of the Grand List is needed for the fiscal year July 1, 1937, to July 1, 1938.)

Respectfully submitted,

LETTIE T. O'MEARA,
MARY L. ANDROSS,
WALDO E. HOOD.

Directors.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the School Directors and Citizens
of the Town of Topsham:

I herewith present my tenth annual report of the
schools of your town.

Orange East District

The organization of the district remains the same as last year, including seven towns and one incorporated district as follows: Bradford Academy and Graded School District; Corinth Academy and Cookeville Graded School; Corinth, Fairlee, Thetford, Topsham, Vershire, and West Fairlee. There are now forty-eight full time teachers and one full time Supervisor of Music and Art, and one part time Supervisor of Music, comprising 49.41 full time positions in the district. The total number of pupils enrolled in the schools of the district in September was approximately 960.

Changes in the Fiscal Year

As I noted in my last annual report, the law now requires that the accounts of the School Directors be kept on a basis of a fiscal year which runs from July 1 to July 1, instead of from February to February as in the other departments. In order to change over to this new fiscal year it was necessary to treat the half year period from February to July 1936 as a separate unit, voting a special tax to cover it at the same time as the regular tax was voted for the school year from July 1936 to July 1937. In my report I showed that there should

have been a credit balance of over \$2,000 for use of the schools on February 1, 1936, if they had actually been given credit for all taxes voted to them in previous years, but since a considerable portion of these taxes had not actually been collected, the Selectmen and Auditors did not believe it would be wise to unbalance the general fund by transferring full credit on these back taxes.

Accordingly, at a joint meeting between Selectmen, School Directors and Auditors held at Waits River on February 29, 1936, it was agreed that the schools be given immediate credit for \$758.11, representing the gain in their account for 1935, with all back taxes for that year accruing to the general fund whenever collected. For years previous to 1935 no immediate credit was to be given the schools, but they were to receive their portion of any back taxes for years earlier than 1935 as they might be collected. It also was agreed that beginning with the February 1, 1936, balance of \$758.11, the Town Treasurer should keep the school finances in a separate account and credit the school department with the full amount of the levy voted at all future town meetings. Funds to cover such credits were to be transferred from the general fund which would then receive all taxes as collected.

Under this agreement it was apparent that with only \$758.11 to start on, a total tax of about \$1.85 on the grand list would be needed to carry the schools for the seventeen months from February 1, 1936, to July 1, 1937, and your School Directors distributed a detailed account explaining this at your last town meeting. The tax actually voted, however, was only \$1.25, 50c to apply from February to July 1936, and 75c to apply from July 1936 to July 1937.

A careful check with your town treasurer shows the financial status of the school department to be as follows: For the period from February 1, 1936, to July 1, 1936, the total receipts for current expenses including the \$758.11 balance, plus back taxes, hall rent, and the full levy of 50c on the grand list, but not including borrowed money, amounted to \$3,023.27, whereas, expenditures during the same period were \$3,693.21. The difference between these two, \$669.94, represents a deficit in the school account at the end of the fiscal year, July 1,

1936, and by law is required to be liquidated by the Selectmen through the general fund.

Beginning the new fiscal year on July 1, 1936 with no balance, the receipts to date from back taxes, tuitions, hall rent, land rent, State Aid and the full amount of the 75c voted on the grand list have been \$6,521.18; orders drawn for current expenses from July 1st to date have been \$4,430.52. The difference between these two, \$2,090.66, represents the balance on hand available for use to run the schools from now to July 1st. Estimates of possible miscellaneous income between now and July would bring this total to about \$2,365. Since the estimated expenditures for that period will be approximately \$4,480, there will be a probable deficit of \$2,115 next July, unless a special deficiency appropriation of 50c on the grand list is made at this town meeting to cover this in addition to the requirements for the next full year beginning in July.

It is purely a matter of choice with the town as to whether this probable deficit of \$2,115 be taken care of by a special tax voted for that purpose or whether it be allowed to appear as a deficit and paid through the general fund. In either case the net cost to the town for the full school year ending next July 1st will amount to \$1.25 on the grand list, only 75c of which was voted at the last town meeting.

Music and Art

A new plan is in operation this year whereby a specially trained person is supervising a program of music and art instruction in the rural schools of Corinth, Cookeville, Thetford, Topsham, Vershire and a part of West Fairlee. This program which I have had in mind for a number of years has always seemed beyond our reach financially, but it became possible this year when I found that Mrs. Evelyn D. Foster would undertake the work at a rate of compensation within our means.

Several of the school boards concerned felt when the proposal was made that even the comparatively small cost involved might be questioned by some of the taxpayers, but their judgment was that such an excellent opportunity to bring the program of the schools into line with modern practice could not be passed by and, therefore, this service was organized. I believe the results

which have been secured in this work to date should be convincing to every one that it is worth far more than it costs.

It should be understood that this is a real supervisory program in which the supervisor visits the schools once in two weeks, introducing and teaching the new work and leaving written plans and instructions for the guidance of the regular teacher to be carried out in daily work between visits. Thus the supervisor plans and directs work in music and art which is carried on regularly every day in the schools. Such a program is not to be confused with the idea of a special teacher who merely comes in once in a while to give the children a "lesson."

The following quotations from the report of Mrs. Foster suggest in part some of the objects of the work: "Music and art in your schools today are a part of the every day routine and are correlated with practically every other school subject. Art in school today is not the old time drawing lesson. * * * We are trying to instill into the minds of the pupils a taste for better art in everyday life to give them practical knowledge in various fields of art. * * * In one year it is impossible to accomplish more than a good foundation on which to build. * * * In music also we expect only to lay a foundation and do no extensive polishing until another year at least. We hope to encourage better music and to develop an appreciation for music in general."

This work has been enthusiastically received everywhere so far as I can learn from talking with the children, teachers, parents and school directors, and my personal observation in the schools has been that it is even more effective than I could have hoped. The following statements are also taken from Mrs. Foster's report: "The introduction of music and art in your school curriculum has been fascinating work and the interest which the pupils, teachers and public have shown has been gratifying. * * * The teachers have followed to the best of their ability the daily program. * * *

* In the entire group of over seven hundred children I can count less than half a dozen who show any indifference in music and art instruction during the visits."

In addition to the regular classroom program the supervisor has been active in outside work, including

such things as an evening class for teachers, junior music clubs, operettas and entertainments and P. T. A. meetings. Extensive plans are being made to hold public music festivals in various parts of the district toward the end of the year, with exhibits of art accompanying them. The general idea of such festivals is not a competitive demonstration between schools but a combined program of music for the sheer enjoyment of children and audience alike.

I wish to take this opportunity to say that the fine spirit and enthusiasm Mrs. Foster has shown in this work, together with her courage and cheerfulness in meeting the difficulties of such an exacting program with traveling conditions at their worst, deserves the highest commendation. The extra expense which the work has entailed above what we had estimated has reduced her net return somewhat and it seems, therefore, that the rate of compensation should be increased about \$5.00 per room for another year. I am heartily in favor of all of this work and urgently recommend that it be continued on that basis. For a detailed tabulation of visits of the supervisor you are referred to Table I. at the end of this report.

School Health Program

During the past year considerably greater emphasis has been placed on the health program in Vermont on account of the addition of a state supervisor of health and physical education to the personnel of the state department. A large number of mimeographed outlines for the guidance of the teachers have been placed in the schools, furnishing a much better basis for adequate health instruction. The standard school rating sheets have also been revised, giving a much more prominent place to the health program.

I have been of the opinion for some time that we should have a continuous school nursing program and it would be possible for a number of towns in this part of Orange Co. to employ a full time school nurse for this work without exceeding a reasonable cost. Under such a plan we could have year round service from a competent nurse of our own selection who would carry out the work with continuity from year to year.

Topsham Schools

A few remaining items which were necessary to standardize the Waits River school were completed last spring just at the close of the year. On September 10th at a meeting of the PTA the standard plate was officially presented to the school.

A number of major improvements have been made during the past year at the Topsham school, including the installation of running water and flush toilets, large windows in the room now in use, and insulation of the ceiling with Celotex. These improvements are all in accordance with the complete plan which was drawn up several years ago for standardization of this school. The town should continue to make a reasonable number of improvements on this school each year until it is standardized.

A complete check was made last spring of all the schools in the state and it was found that many of those which have been standardized for a number of years are now in need of some additional work to maintain them in the original condition. The school at West Topsham is very much in need of painting on the inside, and something must be done soon to put the toilets in proper condition. Considering the difficulty of proper ventilation, of the toilet rooms and the expense of servicing the chemical toilets, I believe it would be far more satisfactory in the long run to replace them with sanitary flush toilets.

Owing to an increase in the number of children in the vicinity of Poverty Street school it was decided late in the summer to open that school next year. While this has increased the expenses of the current year, additional State Aid, which will be received next fall, will off-set it to a considerable extent, and it was the judgment of the school board that the arrangement would be much more satisfactory to the families concerned than the former plan of paying tuition at South Groton. The school was put into usable condition at a small expense in addition to the efforts of the community, but it cannot be considered in any sense as satisfactory for anything except temporary use. If the number of pupils should remain sufficient to warrant continuing of this school for any length of time it will be necessary

for the town to spend a considerable sum on the building.

The average percent of attendance in the Topsham schools last year was 92.7, but this was not representative of the Topsham schools as a whole since the percent of attendance at West Topsham was 99. and 95. in the grammar and primary rooms, respectively, whereas at Topsham it was only 86%. Much of the poor attendance at Topsham has been due to the children being kept at home because of fear of contagious diseases. May I point out again that parents have no legal authority to keep children at home unless they are actually sick or in quarantine? The local health officer should protect all children by properly quarantining all those who have contagious diseases and school attendance laws should then be enforced. The present enrollment in the various schools is shown in Table II. at the end of this report. You will notice that there is again a very large number in the school at Topsham. Promotions by grades at the end of last year are shown in Table III. at the end of this report.

I have visited four to six times since the beginning of the year in September in each of the schools, the average length of all visits having been one and a half hours. In addition, Mrs. Margaret R. Kelley, the State Helping Teacher, has visited in two of your schools, a total of three and a half hours.

In closing this report I wish to say that I enjoy working in your schools and I appreciate sincerely the loyalty and helpfulness shown by all with whom I have come in contact.

Respectfully submitted,

LYMAN W. BOLE,
Superintendent of Schools.

January 31st, 1937.

TABLE I.
Visits to Schools by Supervisor of Music and Art

SCHOOLS	Regular Visits*	Extra Trips to the School	Special Visits For Evening Affairs
Four Corners	9		
Poverty Street	7		
Topsham	9		
Waits River	9	2	1
West Topsham	9		1

*Each regular visit is for approximately one hour and a quarter. During this year it has seemed best to devote somewhat more than half of the time of each visit to music and the rest to art.

TABLE II.

Enrollments

SCHOOL	GRADES								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Four Corners	2	0	1	0	1	4	0	2	10
Poverty Street	0	1	1	5	0	1	0	2	10
Topsham	2	4	7	2	5	3	2	6	31
Waits River	3	3	3	5	2	3	4	3	26
West Topsham	5	5	10	2	8	4	3	6	43
Total	12	13	22	14	16	15	9	19	120

TABLE III.

Promotions by Grades, June 1936, All Schools

GRADE	Enrolled at End of Year	Number Promoted to Next Grade Without Condition	Number Promoted to on Condition	Number Required to Repeat Grade
1	13	12	1	
2	21	19	1	1
3	12	9	2	1
4	17	15	1	1
5	14	11	3	
6	12	11	1	
7	17	13	4	
8	14	14		
Total	120	104	13	3

**BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF
TOPSHAM IN 1936.**

- Mar. 3. Edwin William Norton, to Ernest and Alice Norton.
- Mar. 5. Gordon Abbott Heath, to Harold and Helen Heath.
- Apr. 18. Grace Betty Long, to Earl and Sophronia Long.
- May 3. Charolyn Jane, to Charles and Vivian Coates.
- May 11. Alvah James Smith, to Fred and Marjorie Smith.
- Nov. 25. Lois Jeanine Sweet, to Wilfred and Dorothy Sweet.
- July 11. Earl Wayne Hood, to Earl and Ruby Hood.
- July 19. Alton Charles Tillotson, to Leonard and Eva Tillotson.

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF
TOPSHAM IN 1936.**

- Sept. 13. Xenophon Arthur Vurgaropulos, M. D., of Lowell, Mass., and Frances Sophia Zantuhos of Lowell, Mass.
- Oct. 3. Perley A. Dexter of Topsham, and Bertha Minor of Barre, Vt.
- Nov. 4. Glenn Gordon Delano of Topsham, Vt., and Mildred Eva Bailey of Topsham, Vt.
- Dec. 24. Roy Leslie Hussey of Topsham, Vt., and Flora Ellen Guinard of Barre City, Vt.
- Dec. 24. John Robert Bailey of Topsham, Vt., and Anna McIntosh Smith of Barre City, Vt.

**DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF
TOPSHAM IN 1936.**

- Jan. 29. Rufus Edward Pierson—83 yrs, 10 mths, 11d.
Feb. 20. George W. McDuffee—85 yrs, 5 mths, 15 d.
Feb. 23. Addie M. Hood—67 yrs, 4 mths, 29 d.
Mar. 16. Gordon Abbott Heath—11 days.
Apr. 2. Gertrude Helen Dexter—8 mths, 8 days.
Apr. 18. Frank Russell Foster—15 yrs, 2 mths, 10 d.
May 4. Erastus Sullivan Green—70 yrs, 3 mths, 18 d.
May 24. Harry Garland Currier—45 yrs, 18 d.
June 16. Marian King Chaples—33 yrs, 10 mths, 5 d.
July 28. Isaac Nelson Corruth—77 yrs, 10 mths, 2 d.
Sept. 24. Ernest V. Batten—64 yrs, 4 mths, 19 d.
Nov. 19. Josephine Berno—41 yrs, 11 mths, 2 d.
Nov. 25. John A. Loverin—87 yrs, 8 mths, 9 d.

TOWN MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Topsham, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 2nd, A. D., 1937. at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following articles, viz.:

Article 1. To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Article 2. To choose a Town Clerk.

Article 3. To choose one Selectman for three years.

Article 4. To choose one Lister for three years.

Article 5. To choose a Town Treasurer.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint one or two Road Commissioners for one or two years.

Article 7. To choose an Overseer of the Poor.

Article 8. To see what money the Town will vote to raise to pay the expenses and indebtedness, and for the highways and bridges.

Article 9. Will the Town vote to collect its taxes on real and personal property in installments as provided by No. 21 of the Acts of 1933?

Article 10. To choose a Constable and Collector of Taxes.

Article 11. To choose one Auditor for two years.

Article 12. To choose one Auditor for three years.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise a sum of money in addition to the amount now required by law to take advantage of Section Act 111 of 1906, and if so, how much.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to declare a recess for the purpose of holding the annual school meeting.

Article 15. Shall license for the sale of malt and vinous beverages be granted in this Town?

Article 16. Shall spirituous liquors be sold in this Town?

Article 17. To transact any other business when meet.

W. E. FROST,
D. G. McKAY,
K. A. BATTEN,
Selectmen of Topsham.

NOTICE!

On the adjournment of the above meeting the legal voters of the Topsham Town School District will meet at the Town Hall in said Town, to transact the following business:

Article 1. To choose a Moderator.

Article 2. To choose a School Director for three years.

Article 3. To see how much money the Town will vote to raise for the support of its schools.

Article 4. To transact any other business when meet.

W. E. FROST,
D. G. McKAY,
K. A. BATTEN,
Selectmen of Topsham.

Dated at Topsham, Vt., Feb. 12, 1937.



Topsham offers unusual opportunities for skiing and snow-shoeing. This year, while for seven consecutive weeks New England snow trains were cancelled, ski enthusiasts found available trails in Topsham. Already there is a ski tow on the border of the west side of the town, and we have the assurance of one within the town for next year. Skiers take notice!

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